

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01760 301329Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, GW
SUBJECT: PROPOSED EC STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 20956

SUMMARY. WHEN THE MINISTERS MEET IN LONDON JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, THE FRG WILL CONVEY THE U.S. VIEW THAT A STATEMENT BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME. WHILE THE FRG CANNOT PREJUDGE THE EC POSITION, IT HOPES THAT THE EC DECISION WILL REFLECT THE FRG'S DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. IN THIS CONNECTION, GENSCHER WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANKFURT AND BERLIN AND UNAVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN MINISTER, DCM IMPLEMENTED INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL MORNING JANUARY 30.
 2. VAN WELL SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH MINISTER GENSCHER, WHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE U.S. VIEWS FROM A REPORT BY FRG CHARGE HANSEN ON HIS MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY
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HABIB JANUARY 29. THE MINISTER HAD REQUESTED VAN WELL TO ASK US TO INFORM SECRETARY VANCE OF THE MINISTER'S FIRM INTENTION TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE U.S. IN THIS SPIRIT, THE FRG HAD EXPLAINED ITS POSITION IN WASHINGTON. THE EC DRAFT STATEMENT DOES NOT DEVIATE FROM POSITIONS WHICH THE EC HAS EXPRESSED PUBLICLY. FURTHERMORE, THE FRG HAS RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM

MODERATE ARABS, INCLUDING SADAT AND FAHMI, WHO HAVE URGED THAT THE EC CONTRIBUTE TO WORK ON A PEACE SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE. WHILE THE DRAFT STATEMENT REFLECTS THE CONSENSUS OF VIEWS AMONG THE EC MEMBERS, AND WHILE THE FRG CANNOT PREJUDGE THE EC POSITION, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. VIEW THAT UPCOMING HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO THE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD TAKE PLACE AND THAT THEIR RESULTS BE EVALUATED BEFORE A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE EC IS ISSUED. THE FRG HOPES THAT THE EC CAN COME TO A CONCLUSION IN LONDON WHICH REFLECTS THE GERMAN DETERMINATION TO REMAIN IN CLOSE HARMONY WITH THE U.S.

3. VAN WELL ADDED THAT GENSCHER BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE FRG AND U.S. REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH. SINCE BOTH GENSCHER AND THE SECRETARY WILL BE TRAVELLING IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE, GENSCHER BELIEVES THAT THE GERMAN READINESS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS SHOULD BE RECIPROCATED. IN THIS CONNECTION GENSCHER WOULD LIKE THE SECRETARY TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM PERSONALLY EITHER ON THE WAY TO OR COMING BACK FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. (COMMENT: GENSCHER PLANS TO RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND CAIRO ON FEBRUARY 12.)

4. THE DCM NOTED VAN WELL'S STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THE DECLARATION AND UNDERLINED OUR CONCERN THAT THE STATEMENT ABOUT PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS A NEW ELEMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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VAN WELL CLAIMED THAT THIS REFERENCE IN THE DECLARATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEMENT MADE BY DUTCH AMBASSADOR KAUFMANN ON BEHALF OF THE EC ON DECEMBER 9 AT THE UN PLENARY. VAN WELL ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT IN ALL THE HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES WHICH THE FRG HAS RECEIVED FROM MODERATE ARABS, INCLUDING SADAT, THE ARABS HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE EC MAKE A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN INCLUDING THE STATEMENT ABOUT PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA, AND BALANCING IT WITH A STATEMENT OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST WITHIN SAFE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS, THE EC FELT THAT IT IS WORKING IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE ARABS AND ISRAEL.

5. VAN WELL CONCLUDED BY STATING THE GERMAN CONVICTION THAT THE NEED FOR PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS URGENT. HE ADDED THAT THE EC BELIVES THAT IT HAS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AREA AND SHOULD MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN. NEVERTHELESS, THE OVERRIDING ELEMENT IN THE

FRG POSITION IS ITS DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE
U.S. THE FRG POSITION IN LONDON WILL REFLECT THIS
CONSIDERATION.
STOESSEL

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